

NRC Watershed Condition Assessment Program

Introduction





- > 3 New Program Initiatives
 - New NPS Planning Paradigm (a context)
 - New DOI Strategic
 Plan (a reason)
 - NRC Program to
 Assess Conditions of
 Watersheds (an approach w/ funding)





New NPS Planning Paradigm

Based upon the concept of managing

for "desired conditions"

- GMP's
- VERP
- RSP's
- WRMP's

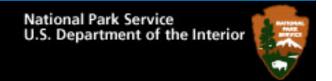




DOI Strategic Plan

- Land Health Goal: Outcome Measures
 - Water Quality
 - Water Quantity
 - Air Quality
 - Wetland Conditions
 - Stream/Riparian Conditions
 - Upland Conditions
 - Coastal/Marine Conditions

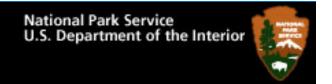




Goal Language

- eg, "Percent of wetland acres achieving desired conditions as specified in management plans"
- > Requires 3 things:
 - Delineation of Landscape Units (e.g., wetlands) planning GIS
 - A management plan with measurable statements of desired conditions - RSP
 - Knowledge of current conditions over the spatial extent of the landscape unit – synthesis and assessment

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NRC – Watershed Condition Assessments

- Long Story
 - Clean Water Action Plan
- Federal UnifiedApproach
- NPS Budget Strategy
 - Bingo!



Designing a Watershed Condition Assessment Program



> PROGRAM

- Park-based project program
- Link to and support condition information needs of RSP's
- Support both synthesis of existing information, acquisition of new information, and development of objectives
- Conscious of linkage to DOI-Plan (wetlands, uplands, stream/riparian, coastal/marine)



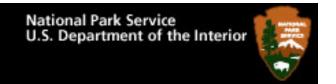
Designing a Watershed Condition Assessment Program (cont.)

> PROJECTS

- Parks need to define project needs
- Assessments should be conducted using a published/referenced process, procedure, or protocol
- A compendium and evaluation of available W/S Condition Assessment Methods was needed
- Program should be able to consider the special interactions that occur between upland watersheds and coastal/marine resources

Program Element W/S Assessment Methods	2003 250	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Compendium	250					
Park Assessment Workshops and Technical Guidance		35	35			
Development Development						
WRD Water Resources	1,271	1,231	1,197	921		
Project Program	1,2/1	1,231	1,177	741		
USGS WQ Assessment	370	470	470	350		
Partnership Program		., 0	1,70			
WRD High Priority	500	500	500	500	500	500
Watershed Assessment						
Projects						
Marine Science Advisor	170	170	170			
Coastal Park Phase I	279	490	490	490	300	
Assessments	217	470	770	470	300	
W/S Assessment				900		
Demonstration Projects				700		
W/S Assessment Project					1996	2296
Program						
Program Coordinator		50	125	125	125	125
Coastal Watershed RA		75	100	100	100	100
Other	181				((6))	
TOTAL	3,021	3,021	3,021	3,021	3,021	3,021

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Program Design Needs

- Design the Project Program
- Fully Integrate With:
 - Resource Stewardship Planning
 - Vital Signs Monitoring
 - State-of-the-Parks Roll-Ups
 - DOI Strategic Plan Reporting

